

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2011-0030-EA**

May 2012

Bingham Canyon Mine Air Quality and Weather Monitoring Station

Location: West of the town of Herriman, Salt Lake County, Utah
Township 4 South, Range 2 West, Section 6

Applicant/Address: *Kennecott Utah Copper LLC
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This unsigned FONSI and the attached EA DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2011-0030-EA for the Bingham Canyon Mine Air Quality and Weather Monitoring Station are available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning on May 21, 2012.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the attached EA and consideration of the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that with the following applicable mitigating measures, the proposed action would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required:

- Migratory/breeding bird surveys would be conducted during the migratory bird nesting season (March 1 – September 15), as construction is intended to occur during that time-frame. Construction areas must be cleared 72-hours in advance. Surveys need to be comprehensive walking 15-meter transects of the area to detect both ground-dwelling and tree nesting species. If nests are discovered during the survey, they would be buffered during the nesting season. Buffers would follow the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances (Romin and Muck 2002). Small neotropical migrant nests would be buffered by 100 feet. Activities would not occur until the birds are fledged and are no longer dependent upon the nest.
- Kennecott would conduct at least one site visit per week at the Project site during operations to collect data, change filters, and inspect equipment. There would be other visits required during operation of the station including: quality assurance inspections and longer duration visits for repair work. In order to avoid disturbance in crucial mule deer winter range to the greatest extent possible, Kennecott would make every effort to visit the site only once a week from December 1 through April 15. Kennecott would keep a log book of visits at the site. The winter season for mule deer is from December 1 through April 15. Construction work would be avoided during this season. Regular maintenance and monitoring data collection would need to be conducted weekly throughout the year.
- Kennecott would construct an 8-foot chain link fence around the air monitoring equipment and meteorological tower to keep wildlife, and other unauthorized visitors, out of the project area. The fence would be colored or coated, with a BLM approved color, to reduce reflectivity.
- Kennecott would install reflective devices on the guy wires to the meteorological tower for bird avoidance measures. These devices would be checked regularly and replaced as needed.
- Kennecott would construct the Project outside of winter and/or spring seasons, due to wet conditions at the site, to avoid unnecessary erosion within the Project area. The construction window would be May – September.
- Areas of temporary disturbance would be reseeded with a BLM-approved seed mix. The seed mix would be specially selected to include low-fire/fuel plant species that are less likely to

provide fuel in the case of a wildfire. Low-fire/fuel seed mixes generally consist of a high proportion of bunch grasses.

- Noxious weeds such as squarrose knapweed, dalmation toadflax, and houndstongue are present in the Project area. The BLM Noxious Weed Standard Stipulations would be implemented throughout construction of the Project.

The decision to approve or deny the above alternatives and if appropriate a signed FONSI with rationale, will be released after consideration of public comments and completion of the EA.